

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR 13 May 1952

25X1 SUBJECT

OB Situation of the Soviet Ground Forces and the German Volkspolizei NO. OF PAGES 7

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GERMANY.Order of Battle.

1. [ ] no changes in the general disposition of the Soviet ground forces in Germany prior to mid-March 1952.
2. The following units in the Soviet Zone of Germany, with their [ ] location, and date of observation, were confirmed [ ]

a. GRQ Units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany.

An Ingr Regt	[ ]	BARLBURG	6 February
821st Obsn Bn of the IV Arty Corps	[ ]	RATLEBOW	14 December
Hq of an Arty Div	[ ]	POTSDAM	9 March
30th Gds Gun Arty Brig	[ ]	POTSDAM	24 February
6th (?) Gds AAA Div	[ ]	CHEMNITZ-AUE area	12 March

b. Eighth Guards Army.

An AT Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps	[ ]	GERA-RUDOLSTADT	18 February
An AAA Regt of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps	[ ]	RUDOLSTADT	18 February

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830th Eng Bn	[REDACTED]	RUDOLSTADT	9 March	25X1
Hq 32nd Gds Mtz Rifle Div	[REDACTED]	CHLEUB	8 March	
117th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	[REDACTED]	WEININGEN	22 February	
87th Gun Arty Regt	[REDACTED]	PLAUN	18 February	
Hq 20th Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	JENA	5 March	
30th (?) AT Arty Brig	[REDACTED]	ALTENBURG- MERSBURG	18 February	
An Ingran of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps	[REDACTED]	HAUNBURG	9 March	
Hq 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	[REDACTED]	HAUNBURG	7 March	
172d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	[REDACTED]	GOTHA	19 February	
Hq 21st Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	HALLE	13 March	
66th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	HALLE	23 January	
70th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	HALLE	13 December	
A Gds RL Bn of the 21st Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	HALLE	8 March	

c. Third Shock Army.

136th Gds Mv Tank SP Regt	[REDACTED]	BURG	29 February	25X1
Hq 207th Mtz Rifle Div	[REDACTED]	STERNAL	12 March	
Hq 19th Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	WILHELMSDEN	27 January	
Hq 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	[REDACTED]	SCHWEN	12 March	
280th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	[REDACTED]	WISSEN	March	
74th Mv Tank SP Regt	[REDACTED]	SCHWEN	29 February	
Hq 10th Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	PELLEBERG	12 March	
119th Gds Mv Tank SP Regt	[REDACTED]	LEWISBLAST	11 February	

d. First Guards Mecz Army.

Hq 8th Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	SPISA	12 March	25X1
Hq 9th Tank Div	[REDACTED]	RIEBA	23 February	

e. Second Guards Mecz Army.

Hq 9th Gds Tank Div	[REDACTED]	RUOSTELITZ	8 March	25X1
Hq 12th Gds Tank Div	[REDACTED]	ROSTOPIL	March	
19th Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	DOBNERITZ	11 March	
9th Tank Bn of the 19th Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	DOBNERITZ	3 October	

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f. Third Guards Mecz Army.

Army Hq	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	March	25X1
Hq of the AAA Div	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	12 March	
50th Mtrcl Regt	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	4 March	
51st Gds PL Regt	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	4 March	
Hq 11th Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	12 March	
15th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	23 February	
10th Tank Regt	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	23 February	
Hq 6th Gds Tank Regt	[REDACTED]	JUSTADOLF	12 February	
Hq 7th Gds Tank Div	[REDACTED]	ROSLAY	12 February	
Hq 8th Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	COTTBUS	12 February	

g. Fourth Guards Mecz Army.

An Arty Regt of the 11th Gds AT Arty Brig	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	6 March	25X1
312th Gds PL Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	13 January	
113th Sig Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	12 January	
13th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	22 February	
17th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	6 March	
35th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
676th How Arty Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
120th(?) AAA Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
34th Tank Eng Bn	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	12 March	
25th Gds Mecz Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ/Oder	27 January	
57th Gds Tank Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ/Oder	6 March	
84th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ/Oder	22 March	
Hq 25th Tank Div	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	25 February	
111th Tank Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
132d Tank Regt	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	5 March	
Hq 10th Gds Tank Div	[REDACTED]	LORENTZ	25 February	

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25X1

31st Gds Div Tank SP Regt

KALPHETZ

4 March

25X1

29th (?) Gds Mtz Rifle  
Regt

KALPHETZ

15 March

### Training and Field Exercises.

#### 3. Division Training.

The period from mid-February 1952, when the final recruit inspections were generally believed to have been made, until mid-March 1952 was almost exclusively a period of combat exercises involving units up to and at company level. These exercises were held in the neighborhood of the military posts and a rotation of units to troop training grounds for practice combat firing was in progress. There was almost no other activity than formation drill at the barracks installations. Reports on rail movements and observations by sources tended to indicate that, except for the KIMDOL training area, all troop training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany were used for firing practice involving live ammunition. The rotation of troops from the military posts of the Second Gds Mezz Army to the JUMTERBOG training area and from the posts of the Eighth Gds Army to the OHRUPF training grounds was particularly intensive. The movements of the motor vehicle columns of the 9th Gds Tank Div and headquarters units of the Second Gds Mezz Army in the NUTENBERG-LICHEN area from late February to about 10 March 1952 are also believed to have been made as a part of an alternate short term training program involving a variety of elements of the 9th Gds Tank Div. These units went to the training areas from their posts with headquarters troops and not as a part of a single, large scale field exercise. Although various reports received during the winter indicated the possibility that this spring, combat divisions would move to the troop training grounds as early as March, information to this effect was not given full credence. The winter training program contained no indications that the beginning of the summer training had been shifted to an earlier date. Credible information from THUMPLI and WUNDER-MARKENBOG now supports the conclusion that the components will not move to the troop training grounds before April. The same conclusion may apply to the occupation of the other troop training grounds.

#### 4. Special Exercises.

- a. AAA firing practice with live ammunition started at the end of February 1952. The first area involved was ALTENHILDE. AAA units which arrived there about 1 March were components of the following divisions: 2d Gds AAA Div, 13th AAA Div, 20th Mezz Div, 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div; 19th Gds Mezz Div; 31st AAA Div; 1st Mezz Div, 9th and 12th Gds Tank Divs, and 10th Gds Tank Div. Most of these units returned to their post between 21 and 23 March, while elements of the 2d Gds AAA Div returned to their post as early as 8 March. During the training period of 1951, only a few AAA units practiced at ALTENHILDE. It appears that this year the training grounds are more heavily used by AAA units which constitute organic elements of other army units. The occupation of the WUNDERM AAA range began about 12 March, approximately two weeks later than in 1951. Components of the 14th Gds AAA Div, the 32d (?) AAA Div and the two AAA Divisions of the Third and Fourth Gds Armies

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There were no indications that components of AAA divisions would be

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- b. The ALTENHAGEN troop training grounds again was used for the training of artillery units this year. The first shipments of artillery and rocket launcher units arrived about the same time the AAA units arrived. Specifically, components of the following units were identified there: 6th Arty Div from RATTENOW, including the 65th (?) Mort Brig by a process of rotation; 30th Gds Gun Arty Brig of the unidentified artillery division from POTS DAM, by a process of rotation; the unidentified rocket launcher regiments of the XXVIII and XXIX Gds Itz Rifle Corps from LEIPZIG-SCHONHAU and GALLFELD respectively; the troops left on 20 and 22 March after four-day training cycles; the unidentified Gds rocket launcher battalion of the 21st Gds Recz Div from HALLE. Besides these units, elements of the 6th Arty Div and the 3d (?) Gds AT Arty Brig from BRANDENBURG have probably been stationed at ALTENHAGEN since about mid-March.

- c. Firing practice with live ammunition by tank details was resumed at the target range of HILBERSLEBEN-SALONAU, LUTTING Heath, in mid-February. To date, components of the following units have been identified there:

220th Tvk Tank SP Regt of the Eighth Gds Army from BLAUCHAU  
20th Gds Recz Div from JENA and UETZ  
39th Gds Itz Rifle Div from UETZ  
57th Gds Itz Rifle Div from WEISSFELD  
10th Gds Tank Div from BRANDENBURG and BRANDENBURG.

- d. The engineer battalion of the XXIII Gds Itz Rifle Corps from MAREBURG moved to BAD KROGER on 12 March. Engineer units of the Second and Fourth Gds Recz Armies have been engaged in practice in the area of the FRIEDRICH-SCHLUSSE engineer training camp north of LUTTING since the end of February. The BITEAU training site on the Elbe River was still vacant prior to mid-March. According to [redacted] report, the engineer regiment of the GDF from BITEBURG was scheduled to move to KROGER in the middle of March.

- e. A signal command-post exercise was conducted in the area of BAUNBERG and south of the Harz Mts. from about 1 to 20 March. Detachments of all six armies and the IV Arty Corps were involved in the command-post exercise which is believed to have been supervised directly by the GDF. During the course of the exercise, the detachments were repeatedly seen in the woods of the Plume, Schrecke, Schrecke and Gaiselholz Hills and on the south banks of the Unstrut and Elbe Rivers. It has not been determined to date whether the exercise involved the principles of attack or defense and what other factors were involved.

#### Personnel

5. No incoming or outgoing shipments of personnel were observed during the period covered by the report. The daily average of military personnel absent leave trains between 21 February and 16 March was about 150 troops on eastbound trains and about 300 troops on westbound trains.

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[redacted]

that this situation was caused by a shortage of locomotives. Exercises held by the Soviet occupation forces during the period under review required the employment of a large number locomotives for troop trains; this had a detrimental effect on the commercial traffic in the railroad districts concerned.

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7. Coal stocks also continued to increase. As of 16 March, total coal stocks amounted to 248,385 tons as contrasted with the 222,168 tons on hand on 17 February. This quantity was adequate for 11.6 days. Hard coal stocks represented about 50 percent of total coal stocks.
8. Rail freight traffic through border crossing points along the Oder-Neisse line continued at the previously observed level. The grain import program continued.
9. The planned reconstruction of the second track of the RUHLAND-FALKENBERG railroad line was reported. This project may be the first stage in the establishment of a new and efficient east-west route leading from HORKA-NEHRKIRCH via RUHLAND to FALKENBERG. It is to continue from there toward either MAGDEBURG or LEIPZIG and BERLIN.
10. There was no change in the number of locomotives available in the Soviet Zone of Germany. ZW type railroad tank cars available as of 11 March amounted to 2,513 units, 1,937 of which were operating within the Soviet Zone. The remainder operated outside of the Soviet Zone.

#### Supply Situation.

11. Soviet rail supply shipments in February were heavier than in January when the supply traffic is usually rather light. However, the volume of Soviet supply traffic as observed during the reported period did not exceed normal proportions. Supply shipments arriving from the U.S.S.R. increased from 829 carloads in January to 969 in February. This increase was mainly caused by the delivery of new motor vehicles, which was started in early February after a one year interruption. Prior to 24 March, a total of 1,281 such vehicles were observed arriving in the Soviet Zone of Germany. It is believed that these motor vehicles were replacements for equipment beyond repair. However, no shipments of scrapped cars to the U.S.S.R. have been observed to date. The arrival of new tanks continued. Between 1 January and 24 March, 107 new tanks entered the Soviet Zone en route from the U.S.S.R. In February, a total of 303 carloads of ammunition arrived as contrasted with the 361 carloads in January. The volume of ammunition shipments was relatively small. In February, interzonal traffic did not exceed the normal level observed in January. [redacted] the large fuel depot of the GOF in BREITEN discontinued its fuel deliveries after mid-February. The functions of this installation have been taken over by the newly established fuel depot in STASSFAMBOCHEN-BREITEN and, also by the depot in SCHEITZ southeast of COTTBUS. The newly constructed fuel depot at RADERSBURG, which is believed to have replaced the GOF installation in WALTEN, has been receiving fuel shipments since early March.

#### German Volkspolizei.

12. Further information on the reorganization of the VP Dienststellen (VPDs) was obtained. It is rather probable that the VPDs are internally carried as cadre divisions and that it is intended to systematically prepare the activation of Volkspolizei divisions. This does not mean, however, that 24 divisions will actually be formed from the VPDs. The reported authorized strength is about 3,000 men, but the actual strength is between 15 and 18 percent of the authorized strength at present. To bring the [redacted] of time and seems to be possible only upon introduction of compulsory military service. The reorganization as carried out to date indicates no increase of the combat potential of the Volkspolizei. An activation of fully equipped and replenished divisions is not anticipated at present. The NVA schools were not affected by the reorganization program.

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13. There are some indications that the preparations for the activation of a Luftpolizei are continuing. Several VPDs detached specially selected personnel. Fitness for flying and previous service with the former German Air Force were stressed. The VP personnel concerned apparently receive special training and are possibly organized into a unit with the VPDs in PERENZLAU and PINNOCH. Therefore, it is concluded that the preparations for the activation of a Luftpolizei are made in close association with the NVA.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARYGeneral.

14. The CB situation of the Soviet Army forces in Austria-Hungary revealed no changes during the past month.

Order of Battle.

15. Recent observations supported the assumption that the Hq 13th Gds Mecz Div and components of the motorcycle battalion and the signal battalion are stationed in NOBILING. The following units were confirmed [ ] 25X1
- [ ]
- a. 13th Gds Mecz Div: Hq 13th Gds Mecz Regt, [ ] in the Trost Kaserne, VIENNA, up to 4 January 1952 25X1
- 127th Tank Bn of the Hq 13th Gds Mecz Regt, [ ] in the Trost Kaserne, VIENNA, up to 15 December 1951 25X1
- 106th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt, [ ] in KACRAN up to 15 January 1952 25X1
- 8th Gds Engr Bn, presumably with [ ] in KACRAN, up to 15 December 1951 25X1
- b. 23d AAA Div: Unidentified AAA regiment, [ ] KORNIEU- 25X1  
BURG, until 14 December 1951
- Unidentified AAA regiment, [ ] KORNIEU- 25X1  
BURG or STOKHIMAU, until 7 December 1951
- c. Central Group of Forces: Unidentified hospital, [ ] NOBILING, 25X1  
until 13 December 1951.

Training.

16. The Soviet forces in the Soviet Zone of Austria were still in their winter quarters at the end of March 1952. Reports on rail movements and information from the military posts indicated that the troops conducted firing practice with live ammunition outside their post. The units were shipped by rail to the target ranges by company or battalion and usually returned after a few days. Such firing practices were held in the shooting area near the Danube River. Only some indications that firing practices at the [ ] available. There is the possibility that AAA units stationed in Hungary also practiced at [ ].

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